

b  
Amend  
d

discrete-time sampling means having a predetermined sampling frequency, the discrete-time sampling means being coupled to the noise-shaping means to produce an output signal with a lower transition rate with respect to said sampling frequency by a predetermined multiple, the output signal with a lower transition rate being fed back to the means for preliminary noise-shaping to sum with the input signal.

2. (amended) A modulation stage for signal shaping of claim 1 wherein the discrete-time sampling means includes means for suppressing sampling of the input signal for a set number of clock cycles.

3. (amended) A modulation stage for signal shaping of claim 2 wherein the means for suppressing sampling includes means for detecting a transition in the output signal.

Please add new Claims 7 - 10 as follows.

b2  
4Y  
x. (new) A modulation stage for signal shaping within a digital amplifier, the modulation stage comprising:

a noise shaping network for preliminary noise shaping of an input signal; and

a discrete-time sampling circuit having a predetermined sampling frequency, the discrete-time sampling circuit coupled to the noise shaping network to generate an output signal with a lower transition rate with respect to the predetermined sampling frequency by a predetermined multiple, the output signal with a lower transition rate being fed back to the noise-shaping network to sum with the input signal.